

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An oxide-based mixture for forming a~~ A ceramic matrix composite comprising:

a sol gel comprising from about 10 wt% to about 25 60 wt% of ~~metal-oxide~~ solids; and

alumina particles;

wherein the sol gel is mixed with said alumina particles to form a mixture including from about 40 wt% to about 70 wt% said sol gel and about 30 wt% to about 60 wt% of said mixture includes said alumina particles;

wherein the mixture of the sol gel and the aluminum particles is operable to surround a ceramic fiber.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein the sol gel is selected from the group consisting of alumina sol, alumina-coated silica sol ~~and , silica sol, and any appropriate combination thereof.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 2 wherein the ~~ceramic~~ solid comprises from about 0 wt% to about 33 60 wt% of the silica sol.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 3 wherein the ~~ceramic~~ solid comprises from about 5 wt% to about 40 40 wt% of the silica sol.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein the alumina particles have a size of ~~from~~ between about 0.1 μm to about 1.5 μm .

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 1 wherein said mixture further comprises a filler material.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 6 wherein the filler material is a mullite.

8. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~mixture~~ ceramic composite of Claim 1, wherein said sol gel includes a ~~metal-oxide~~ solids content of about 20 weight percent.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) The ceramic composite of Claim 2, wherein the solids of the alumina sol consists of about 10 wt% to about 25wt%.